

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 AGR-05 AGRE-00 COME-00

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PA-01 PRS-01 ABF-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 /047 W
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P 300920Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2247

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PASS AID AND AGRICULTURE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, BG

SUBJ: PL-480: FY 77 TITLE I PROGRAM FOR BANGLADESH

REF: (A) DACCA 4220; (B) DACCA 4727; (C) STATE 236182

1. SUMMARY: BDG NEEDS TO ARRANGE IMPORTS OF RAW COTTON URGENTLY. PLEASE INFORM US PROMPTLY WHETHER OR NOT RAW COTTON IS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUBJECT PROGRAM, SO OFFICIALS MAY PLAN ACCORDINGLY. END SUMMARY.

2. BDG HAS REQUESTED (REFTEL A) AND MISSION HAS RECOMMENDED (REFTEL B) INCLUSION OF RAW COTTON IN THE SUBJECT PROGRAM. AS NOTED REFTELS, THE BDG NEEDS TO ARRANGE FOR RAW COTTON IMPORTS TO ARRIVE BY YEAR-END. IN RECENT YEARS, IDA IMPORT CREDITS WERE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FINANCING. MUCH OF THE RAW COTTON SO FINANCED WAS PURCHASED IN THE U.S. THIS YEAR IDA FINANCING IS SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY, BOTH AS TO THE TOTAL AMOUNT AND WHEN IT MAY BECOME AVAILABLE. THIS SOURCE CAN NOT BE USED THIS YEAR FOR SHIPMENTS NEEDED BY YEAR-END.

3. THE BDG OFFICIALS DO HAVE SOME LIMITED ALTERNATIVES
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TO PL-480 FINANCING THIS YEAR. A POUND STERLING 2 MILLION

UK LOAN FOR PURCHASE OF GOODS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SIGNED IN SEPTEMBER, COULD FINANCE COTTON FROM EDLIGIBLE COUNTRIES (SUCH AS PAKISTAN IF AVAILABLE) AND A PART OF THE JANANESE YEN CREDIT MAY ALSO APPARENTLY BE SPENT FOR RAW COTTON. FINALLY, THEY MAY DRAW ON LIMITED CASH FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESOURCES. AS NOTED REFTELS, THE BDG WOULD PREFER US COTTON UNDER PL-480.

4. IF RAW COTTON IS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FY 77 PROGRAM, IT WOULD HELP THE BDG BOTH FINANCIALLY AND FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, TO KNOW THIS PROMPTLY AND TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FY 77 TITLE I AGREEMENT SOONEST. FURTHERMORE, BDG OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO PRESS US HERE TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS TO PERMIT THEM TO MAKE LONG-RANGE PLANS FOR FOOD AS WELL AS NON-FOOD COMMODITY IMPORTS. (IN MISSION VIEW, HOWEVER, IF THE FY 77 TITLE I PROGRAM IS TO CONSIST ONLY OF THE COMMODITIES LISTED REFTEL C, THERE IS LITTLE NEED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS SOON.)

5. INEDIBLE TALLOW. WHILE LESS URGENTLY NEEDED THAN RAW COTTON, IT WOULD ALSO HELP BDG DECISION-AMAKERS TO LEARN DEFINITELY WHETHER OR NOT INEDIBLE TALLOW IS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FY 77 PROGRAM.

6. PLEASE ADVISE US SOONEST WHETHER OR NOT RAW COTTON (AND/OR TALLOW) IS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FY 77 PROGRAM.
CHESLAW

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